

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment claims 1 and 3-9 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 2 has been canceled by this amendment, and the features recited therein have been incorporated into claim 1.

I. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Marko et al. (U.S. 6,993,316) in view of Baba (U.S. 2002/0027508).

As noted above, claim 2 has been canceled by this amendment, and the features recited therein have been incorporated into claim 1. Thus, claim 1 now recites that the operation status information includes first data to be written into the non-volatile memory means when the operating power is being supplied to the multi-source audio apparatus and second data to be written into the non-volatile memory means when the operating power to the multi-source audio apparatus is shut off.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has recognized that Marko does not disclose or suggest the above-noted feature. The Examiner, however, has taken the position that Baba cures this deficiency of Marko (see Office Action at page 4). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Regarding Baba, Applicants note that this reference discloses a power failure management system which includes a backup power source 1, a CPU 2, and a rewritable memory 3 (see Fig. 1). As explained in Baba, upon the detection of a power failure, the CPU 2

determines whether the backup power source 1 is functioning properly (see Fig. 3 and paragraph [0021]).

In this regard, if the CPU 2 determines that the backup power source 1 is functioning properly, then the CPU 2 causes the backup power source 1 to be immediately actuated so that a normal power failure management routine is performed (see Fig. 3 and paragraph [0029]). On the other hand, if the CPU determines that the backup power source 1 is not functioning properly (e.g., not charged or not connected), then backup power source information (i.e., the state of the backup power source 1) is written to the memory 3 (see Fig. 3; and paragraphs [0027] and [0030]).

Thus, in Baba, upon a determination that the backup power source 1 is not functioning properly at the time of a power failure, information concerning the status of the backup power source 1 (i.e., not connected or not charged) is written to the memory 3.

As noted above, claim 1 has been amended so as to recite that operation status information includes first data to be written into the non-volatile memory means when the operating power is being supplied to the multi-source audio apparatus and second data to be written into the non-volatile memory means when the operating power to the multi-source audio apparatus is shut off.

In other words, according to claim 1, the operation status information that is to be written to the memory is distinguished between when the multi-source audio apparatus has operating power supplied thereto and when the operating power is shut off. Applicants respectfully submit that Baba does not disclose or in any way suggest such a capability.

In particular, as is evident from the above-noted description, Applicants note that Baba merely discloses the ability to write status information of the backup power source when it is detected that a power failure has occurred and the backup power source is not functioning properly.

As such, Applicants respectfully submit that Baba does not disclose or in any way suggest operation status information which includes first data to be written into the non-volatile memory means when the operating power is being supplied to the multi-source audio apparatus and second data to be written into the non-volatile memory means when the operating power to the multi-source audio apparatus is shut off.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Marko and Baba does not teach, suggest or otherwise render obvious all of the features recited in amended claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over the cited prior art, an indication of which is kindly requested. Claims 3-9 depend from claim 1 and are therefore considered patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

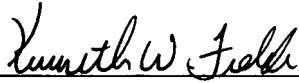
If the Examiner maintains the rejection based on the combination of Marko and Baba, Applicants kindly request that the Examiner explicitly identify the data in Baba which allegedly corresponds to the “first data” of claim 1 and the “second data” of claim 1 so that Applicants may make an informed decision with regard to appeal.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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